MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Action against tax defaulters

*23. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 5049 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th May, 2002 and state:

(a) what specific action has been initiated against the tax defaulters and when;

(b) the amount payable by these companies individually and since when;

(c) what is the extent of penalty in terms of amount and whether at any time any penal amount has been waived; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) After creation of demand, action under section 221 of the IT Act was taken against these companies in October, 2001. Necessary penalty proceedings have also been initiated and prosecution launched in March, 2002. In the case of one of the defaulters, notice under section 221 was issued in January, 2002.

(b) The amount payable will be established after finalisation of the cases.

(c) No penal amount has been waived at any stage. Penalty is determined after finalisation of case.

(d) Does not arise as no penalty has been waived at any stage.

Behaviour of Marshals in the flights

*24. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Covernment's attention has been drawn to the news-item

"Marshals, the new terror in the Indian Skies", which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 23rd June, 2002;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to control and contain the obnoxious activities of the commandos so as to ensure smooth journey for the bonafide passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The News item under the caption "Marshals— the New Terror in Indian Skies", which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 23.6.2002, mentioned various incidents of alleged misconduct by Sky Marshals. The facts regarding the reported incidents are indicated below.

There has been no incident of a commando ducking the mandatory frisking. National Security Guard (NSG), from where Sky Marshals are drawn, enquired into the complaint and reported that there had been an instance of some misunderstanding between a Sky Marshal and the Airline's ground staff, which had been sorted out with the intervention of a Senior Security Manager and the established procedure for checking Sky Marshals was completed. The whole incident delayed the Alliance Air flight CD 7211 on 6.2.2002 by 30 minutes.

As regards the complaint of a Sky Marshal turning up drunk for duty on Alliance Air flight CD 7541 on 9. 2. 2002, NSG has informed that the matter has been enquired into and on being found guilty the Sky Marshal had been repatriated out of NSG.

The reported case of rape by Sky Marshals in November, 2000 was investigated by NSG and it has been found that it was not a case of rape. The four Sky Marshals were, however, punished and repatriated out of NSG immediately for improper conduct.

NSG had ordered a high level inquiry into the complaint of obscene behaviour on May 26, 2002 by a Sky Marshal in front of an Air Hostess on Alliance Air flight CD 7241. Even though the facts could not be established conclusively, a decision has been taken to repatriate the Sky Marshal out of NSG.

The incidents that were reported in the News item of The Hindustan Times dated 23. 6. 2002 have been investigated by NSG and prompt

punishment meted out to the Sky Marshals wherever misconduct has been established. NSG being an elite commando force of the country, created under the Ministry of Home Affairs, with its own in - built system of ensuring discipline and good conduct does not retain a commando on its strength when any complaint against him is received, if it is seen that there is even a shadow of doubt regarding his conduct.

Mutual consultations are held between Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), NSG and the Airlines on an on-going basis and appropriate action is taken jointly to pre-empt such incidents.

Upkeep of old monuments in Pondicherry

*25. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received from the Union Territory of Pondicherry for development of tourism during 2000-2001, 2001-2002;

(b) what are the details of proposals submitted by the Union Territory of Pondicherry and the amount allotted; and

(c) whether Government have any scheme to improve and upkeep the old monuments at 'Arikamedo' at Pondicherry?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) Necessary information is given as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Name of the project sanctioned	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3
2000-01	1. Refurbishment of heritage building— Pondicherry Museum	20.00
	2. Purchase of Touch Screen Kiosk	4.82
	3. Yoga Festival	2.00
2001-02	1. Tourist complex at Chunnambar	44.60
	2. Watersports equipment for Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam	31.01